

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.09
1789

APR 1 1924
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1924

Curtis Redfern

Lincoln Manor, San Francisco
California

MEXICAN WILD DAHLIAS

and the

Best California Varieties

With Key to Their Colors

I extend to you a most cordial invitation to visit my garden any Saturday or Sunday afternoon during the Spring and Summer.

In the Beautiful Garden Contest conducted by the San Francisco Chronicle in 1922, out of the several hundred gardens entered, my garden was the only one judged worthy of two awards.

At the 1923 show of the Dahlia Society of California, held at the Palace Hotel, my exhibit received one of the two Special Awards for merit.



A Few California Prize Winners

MEXICAN WILD DAHLIAS

and the

Best California Varieties

With Key to Their Colors



INTRODUCTION.

This catalog is issued for the benefit of that rapidly growing number of discriminating garden enthusiasts who know that a choice variety requires no more fertilizer, irrigation, or care than a mediocre one, and that the additional first cost is more than offset by the increased pleasure and satisfaction had in growing only the better varieties. This applies particularly to dahlias. The newer varieties, especially those originated by California hybridizers, are so superior to the dahlias of a few years ago that it is difficult to realize they are from the same ancestors—those seeds sent from Mexico in 1789 to the Abbe Cavanilles of the Royal Gardens in Madrid.

CATALOG ARRANGEMENT.

Catalog reading is with many of us a winter night's favorite indoor sport, but it does not follow that the catalogs should be works of fiction, and I have conquered the temptation to color the text by the extravagant use of adjectives. My descriptions are brief, yet complete, and the fact that most of the varieties listed are prize winners, gold medal varieties, etc., and the best to be had, makes it unnecessary to burden the individual descriptions with records of winnings. The majority are California creations and have those qualities of gorgeous coloring, beautiful formation, strength of stem and sturdiness of growth that our California climatic conditions give to the constitutions of plant life.

You will find this more than a price list of dahlia novelties—it will prove useful at planting time to carry out your color scheme. Give thought to color arrangement in your garden, for without it, even though you grow only the best, the general effect will be disappointing.

To carry out your color scheme you will not plant your dahlia tubers alphabetically or by classes, but according to their predominant color. That is the way the dahlias are listed in this booklet—according to color, beginning with the deeper shades and grading down to the lighter tints. At the height of the blooming season a blossom of each variety was picked and arranged in its proper color position for this key. Where a decided break in color occurs it is indicated by a row of stars, thus:

* * * * *

MEXICAN WILD DAHLIAS

After a year's persistent search I succeeded in securing several of the original dahlias; these were collected for me from the mountainous region that encloses the great Valley of Mexico to the South of the City of Mexico, where they have grown from time immemorial. These I planted among the varieties listed in this catalog and permitted them to seed. These seeds should produce very interesting new varieties. There is a fascination in growing dahlias from seed and it will be doubly so with these seeds containing both the original wild and best hybrid strains. Packets of 100 seeds will be supplied at \$5 the packet, or a small packet will be included without cost where orders for tubers amount to \$5 or more.

Seeds collected from the named varieties, which probably received a certain amount of pollen from the wild plants, will be supplied at \$3 for a packet of 100 seeds. California dahlia seeds have proved most satisfactory wherever grown. They bloom the first season.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS Full cultural directions will accompany all shipments. In this connection I can not recommend too highly Mrs. Stout's "The Amateur's Book of the Dahlia."

TERMS AND SHIPMENT Cash with order or in advance of shipment which will be made about April 1st. Transportation charges prepaid. Field grown tubers only, guaranteed to be in growing condition, and true to name. The varieties listed are scarce and in great demand. To avoid disappointment may I suggest that you place your order at once.

CLASSES OF DAHLIAS Cactus dahlias have long narrow incurved petals. They resemble chrysanthemums. American cactus dahlias are usually larger flowered and have petals not so revolute or incurved as the English or true cactus type. Hybrid cactus dahlias have shorter and broader petals that are slightly revolute. This type in some localities assumes a decorative habit. The flowers are, as a rule, very large.

Decorative dahlias are double flowers, full to the center, and are flat rather than ball-shaped. A decorative in one locality may take the habit of a peony in another location.

Peony dahlias are semi-double flowers showing an open center, usually with a row of inner petals that are curled or twisted. Included in this class is the Duplex type which lacks the row of inner curled petals. Peony dahlias will occasionally be decorative in a foreign soil.

Pom Pom dahlias are the small ball-shaped flowers with regular spiral arrangement of petals.

PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA	(Lohrmann) Decorative. Not new but remains the best red decorative. Vigorous and very floriferous. Stems long and strong. 75 cents.	Deep Red
MEDINAH	(Davies) Decorative. Medium sized blooms carried on good stems well above the foliage. Cardinal shading to American Beauty Rose. \$3.	Cardinal
EMPIRE	(Boston) American Cactus. Very floriferous. Mammoth blooms of raspberry red; perfectly rolled incurved petals. Excellent stems. \$4.	Raspberry Red
MEPHIS-TOPHELES	(Marean) Hybrid Cactus. Ruby red; points of petals tipped gold. \$2.50	Ruby Red
ISLAM PATROL	(Davies) Hybrid Decorative with some characteristics of the Hybrid Cactus class. Dark velvety scarlet tipped and flushed with pure gold. A large flower of great substance on an excellent stem. One of the best 1923 introductions. \$5.	Scarlet and Gold

THE MacGREGOR	(Tyler) Hybrid Cactus. Large flower of Nopal red. Very floriferous; long strong stems. \$5.	Nopal Red
PENNANT	English Cactus. Perfect incurved type. Prof- lific bloomer. Color an attractive orange red. \$1.	Orange Red
* * * * *		
MEXICAN WILD DAHLIA	Probably <i>Dahlia coccinea</i> . Small flower of flaming orange color. Resembles a coreopsis. Foliage finely cut; bush tall and branching. At- tractive in the garden and very desirable for hybridizing purposes. \$10.	Flaming Orange
MING	(Boston) American Cactus. Flaming orange colored flowers of large size on long strong stems. Very desirable. Stock limited. \$5.	Flaming Orange
AMUN RA	(Seal) Decorative. The general color effect of this gold medal dahlia is deep orange. Im- mense flowers. Requires plenty of water and feeding. Pinch out center of plant when it is about 15 inches tall; this eliminates first flowers which may have hard centers. \$3.50.	Orange
U. S. A.	(Stillman) Peony. Flowers of vivid orange on good stems. Very floriferous. \$2.50.	Orange
MARYAN	(Doolittle) Decorative. Apricot, orange and buff in color. \$1.	Orange
M. H. DE YOUNG	(Boston) Decorative. Large perfectly formed flowers on long cane-like stems. In color a deep pure gold. Cannot be too highly recom- mended. \$10.	Pure Gold
INSULINDA	Decorative from Holland. Very large orange- buff colored flowers with broad curled petals. Flowers face upwards and are carried on good strong stems. \$1.50	Orange
GOLDEN GLOW	(Pelicano) Decorative. Large flowers of a combination of deep golden yellow and apricot. Narrow long petals. Fine stems. \$1.	Golden Apricot
ALMA DAVIES	(Davies) Peony. Very large salmon pink flowers on marvelous stems. Beautiful foliage and attractive plants. Most desirable. One of my favorites. \$5.	Salmon Pink
LEORA CREED	(Salbach) Decorative or peony. Orange pink. A fascinating color. Fine for cutting. Very floriferous. \$5.	Salmon Pink

PROMETHEUS	(Stout) Hybrid Cactus. Golden fawn overlaid with salmon. Revolute petals. A prodigious bloomer with good stems. \$3.	Salmon over Fawn
GLADYS BATES	(Boston) Immense incurved blooms of tan with a reverse of rose. A prolific bloomer on fine stems. Fine for cutting. \$2.	Tan and Rose
SAN FRANCISCO	Hybrid Cactus. Immense flowers of pale orange-red tipped yellow; petals broad and twisted; flowers on strong stems high above the foliage. Old but worth while. 75 cents.	Pale Orange
JUDGE MAREAN	(Marean) Decorative. Orange, pure gold, yellow, and salmon pink. Colors attractively blended. \$2.50.	Orange, Yellow, Pink
GORGEOUS	(Boston) Peony. Mammoth flower of yellow splashed with bright scarlet. A wonderful peony-flowered dahlia. \$3.	Yellow and Scarlet
CARACAS	(Stout) Decorative. Very large flowers of glistening yellow with crimson reverse. \$5.	Yellow Crimson
CHAMPAGNE	(Boston) Decorative. Mammoth blooms of perfect form and stem. The color is a delightful and refined golden champagne shading to burnished copper. Most desirable. \$7.50. For those who have forgotten what champagne look like I will say the color is tawny yellow.	Champagne Color
THE ORIOLE	(Burns) Peony or Decorative. A fine variety—a prodigious bloomer. Color a pleasing combination of burnt orange, red and yellow with an occasional flower tipped white. Fine stems. \$2.50.	Orange, Red, and Yellow
ARROW OF GOLD	(Seal) Decorative. A large pure gold colored flower on long strong stems. Very desirable. A 1924 introduction. \$5.	Golden Yellow
MAGIC FLOWER OF OZ	(Doolittle) Decorative. Light coppery yellow. Free bloomer. \$2.50.	Coppery Yellow
MRS. JIM McCANDLESS	(Davies) Peony. Old gold shading to apricot. A large flowering fine peony. \$3.	Golden Yellow
PAUL MICHAEL	(Michael) Decorative. A large flat flower on a thin wiry stem. The color is a fine, clear, deep, golden yellow. \$2.50.	Golden Yellow

TRUDEL	(Stout) Decorative. The color is a beautiful pure gold. \$2.	Golden Yellow
GLORIEUX	(Tyler) Decorative. Large attractive yellow flowers with white-tipped petals. Good stems. \$2.50.	Yellow Tipped White
EL DORADO	(Boston) The finest of the deep golden yellow decoratives. Perfect form, long stems. Very free bloomer. Desirable. \$10.	Yellow
AL KORAN	(Davies) Decorative. Yellow suffused with golden rod and amber. A fine variety. \$5.	Yellow
AMBER GLOW	(Boston) English Cactus type. Immense flower of brilliant yellow. A prodigious bloomer. Best of stems. A most desirable variety. \$2.	Yellow
MRS. RICHARD LOHRMANN	(Lohrmann) Hybrid cactus or decorative. Beautiful shade of yellow. Not new but very much worth while. \$1.50.	Yellow
CREAM KING	Peony. Pale creamy yellow, shading deeper toward the center. An old variety that has not been equalled in its color and class. 75 cents.	Creamy Yellow
* * * * *		
ROSA NELL	(Bromall) Decorative. A sensational dahlia; very large perfectly formed flowers of a brilliant rose color. Extra long stiff stems. \$1.50.	Bright Rose
DADDY BUTLER	(Boston) Hybrid Cactus. Perfectly rolled petals of American Beauty Rose shades with a reverse of a lighter tint. Very floriferous and a fine keeper when cut. \$3.50.	American Beauty Rose
KITTY DUNLAP	(Boston) Decorative. Immense flowers of great substance; perfect formation and held erect on long strong stems. American Beauty Rose color. One of the best dahlias listed in this or any other catalog. \$4.	American Beauty Rose Pink
EMILY D. RENWICK	(Stout) Decorative. A charming flower—the color an iridescent rose with a reflex of gold. Very floriferous. Strong stems. Fine for cutting. \$2.	Rose Pink

ROOKWOOD	(Boston) Decorative. Large flower. Petals beautifully marcelled. Color the pink of the Mrs. Charles Russel Rose. \$5.	Rose
MEXICAN WILD D. VARIABILIS LILACINA	Single flower, resembles a cosmos. Color lavender or lilac pink. Of especial value to collectors or hybridizers. Stock limited. \$10.	Lavender Pink
BLUE BIRD	(Boston) Peony. An enormous blossom with a fine stem. Very floriferous. Mauve colored. \$1.50.	Mauve
J. W. DAVIES	(Boston) Decorative. A very large flower with every good dahlia quality; the color is deep cerise at the center, changing to a lighter tint at the outer edge of the petals; stem long and strong. Blooms continuously. Highly recommended. \$4.	Cerise
MRS. CARL SALBACH	(Salbach) Decorative. Large mauve colored flowers on long stems. Highly recommended. \$1.	Mauve Pink
REGENT	(Boston) American Cactus. A mammoth flower with clear mauve pink petals beautifully incurved. Stems exceptionally long and strong. \$2.	Mauve Pink
JANE SELBY	(Boston) Decorative. Not new, but very desirable. Large blooms of a delicate mauve pink. \$1.	Mauve Pink
DREAMLIGHT	(Boston) Peony or Decorative. An enormous yet refined flower of palest old rose pink with a reflex color of warm yellow at the base of the petals. A peony in California, a decorative in the East. \$3.	Pink
MRS. MARGARET STREDWICK	(Stredwick) English Cactus. La France Pink. Pendant stems. Considered by some as one of the best cactus dahlias yet introduced. \$1.50.	Pink
CALIFORNIA ENCHANTRESS	(Boston) Hybrid cactus. A massive flower of much depth growing on strong erect stems. The color is a beautiful pink, white tipped. It may assume the habit of a hybrid-decorative. \$1.50.	Pink White Tipped
CALIFORNIA SUPERBA	(Wintjen-Boston) Decorative. One of the largest. Pale pink flower of wonderful texture and refinement. Toward the center the color becomes almost white. \$5.00.	Pink to White

TRYPHINNIE	(Seal) Decorative. Light shell pink grading to yellow at the center. Good form and fine stems. \$2.50.	Pale Pink
CLAREMONT	(Salbach) Hybrid Cactus. Large pink flower. The petals are long and curled. Long stems. \$2.	Creamy Pink
GORDON BLANDING	(Asmus) Peony. A mammoth flower of wonderful texture on a long stem. The color is that of the La France rose. Fine for exhibition purposes. \$7.50.	La France Pink
LADY BETTY	(Marean) Decorative Creamy white over-spread with a pinkish tint. Large flowers on good stems. Texture rather coarse. Its chief merit is its large size. \$2.50.	Pale Pink
* * * * *		
GEORGE WALTERS	(Carter) Hybrid Cactus. A very large flower of soft coral pink suffused with gold at the center. Of fine habit and very floriferous. Old but desirable. 75 cents.	Coral Pink
HELVELLA	(McWhirter) Decorative. Very large symmetrically formed flowers of rose pink. \$3.50.	Rose Pink
PRINCESS PAT	(McWhirter) Decorative. Old rose with traces of red early in the season. Fine flowers on good long stems. Free blooming. \$1.00.	Old Rose
BETTY BIRD	(Seal) Hybrid Show. Large rose pink flowers with a suggestion of yellow at the base of the petals. I do not care for show dahlias, but this one is a step removed from the old-fashioned ball-type. It is very beautiful and a gold medal variety. \$5.	Rose Pink
GERTRUDE DAHL	(Stout) Peony. Opalescent pink flowers on long fine stems. Very floriferous. \$2.	Pink
WIZARD OF OZ	(Doolittle) Decorative or Hybrid Cactus. Mammoth bloom of amber pink. Petals have a marcel-wave effect that is most attractive. \$15.	Amber Pink
CAROLYN WINTJEN	(Wintjen) Decorative. Pale coral pink with rose tints. A prodigious bloomer. Fine stems. Not new but desirable. 75 cents.	Coral Pink

DR. TEVIS	(Pelicano) Decorative. One of the most famous of California Dahlias. Introduced in 1915. Still very desirable. Color of this large flower is old rose with gold and apricot tints. You should grow it. \$1.	Old Rose Shaded Golden Apricot
------------------	---	---

FLUFFY RUFFLES	(Seal) Hybrid Cactus. Fawn color with rose reverse. Petals are cork-screwed and give the flower a very artistic two-toned appearance. A fine free blooming variety. \$2.	Fawn and Rose
---------------------------	--	--------------------------

* * * * *

EARLE WILLIAMS	(Doolittle) Decorative. Large attractive flowers of brilliant crimson and purest white, beautifully combined. \$5.	Crimson and White
---------------------------	--	----------------------------------

CIGARETTE	(Boston) Hybrid Cactus. A combination of creamy white and orange. Large many-petalled flowers of good substance. \$5.	Orange and White
------------------	---	---------------------------------

BALLET GIRL	(Boston) English Cactus type. A combination of orange and white, varying occasionally to flowers of all white or all orange. A favorite with everybody. \$2.	Orange and White
--------------------	--	---------------------------------

* * * * *

LOGAN'S WHITE	(Logan) Decorative. Purest white, perfectly formed large-sized flowers on long strong stems. A most desirable white. Petals beautifully waved. A dahlia garden needs a few white varieties to intensify the other colors. \$3.50.	White
----------------------	---	--------------

DORA CLAY	(Boston) Beautifully formed flowers of white on strong stems. Decorative. \$2.50.	White
------------------	---	--------------

ARTHUR TWITCHETT	(Boston) American Cactus. Pure white large blooms with many incurved petals on a long strong stem. Occasionally this variety may have a faint blush of pink. \$2.50.	White
-----------------------------	--	--------------

* * * * *

CHOCOLATE SOLDIER	(Doolittle) Hybrid Cactus. Deep purple. \$2.50.	Purple
------------------------------	---	---------------

MEYERBEER	An old time peony still in demand for exhibition tables on account of its form, size, and beautiful crimson purple color. 75 cents.	Crimson Purple
MRS. SUSAN G. TEVIS	(Boston) Decorative. Deep shade of lilac with a bluish sheen. Large flowers with wavy petals. Early and continuous bloomer. \$10.	Lilac
SHUDOW'S LAVENDER	(Boston) Decorative. Silvery lavender grading to white. A wonderful dahlia. \$5.	Lavender

* * * * *

POM POMS I have a very fine collection of the small ball-shaped dahlias so popular for cutting. All are named varieties and the collection includes several fine new ones. \$2.50 the half dozen or \$4.00 a dozen.

MEMORANDA

EXTRACT FROM DECEMBER BULLETIN OF THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Curtis Redfern of Lincoln Manor, San Francisco, had probably the most interesting and original exhibit in the main ball room. He has been collecting seeds of the wild dahlia from Mexico, and his bowl of fragile orchid colored singles was a striking example of the original dahlia. His two vases of soft green pottery standing four feet high were filled with long stemmed California varieties, and it takes a mighty big flower with a tremendously long stem to fill such a large vase. He probably had the best specimen of Bessie Boston's M. H. DE YOUNG in the show. He was awarded a special Silver Cup by the judges.

